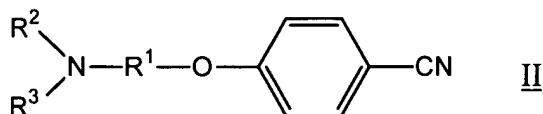
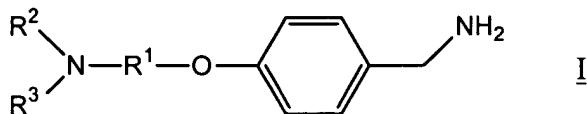


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzylamines of the general formula (I) by catalytically hydrogenating 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of the general formula (II)



where, in the compounds of the general formulae I and II formula (I) and general formula (II), R¹ is C₁-C₈-alkylene, R² and R³ are each independently C₁-C₈-alkyl or are joined to give a ring which may additionally contain a heteroatom, which comprises carrying out wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at elevated pressure and elevated temperatures.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted at pressures of from 5 to 350 bar and at temperatures of from 50 to 250° C.

3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted at pressures of from 5 to 200 bar.

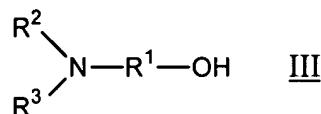
4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted at temperatures of from 60 to 110° C.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted in the presence of Raney nickel or Raney cobalt.

7. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out conducted in the presence of ammonia.

8. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the intermediate 4-(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of the general formula (II) is obtained by reacting a 4-halobenzonitrile with an alkali metal salt of an aminoalcohol of the general formula (III)

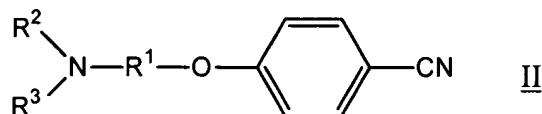


where R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each as defined above.

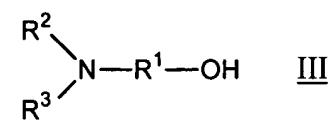
9. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 6 8, wherein the alkali metal salt of the aminoalcohol (III) is obtained by reaction with a base AM where M is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and A is hydride, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy.

10. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein R^1 is ethylene and R^2 and R^3 are each methyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4(aminoalkoxy)benzonitriles of the general formula (II)



where R^1 is C_1 - C_8 -alkylene, and R^2 and R^3 are each independently C_1 - C_8 -alkyl or are joined to give a ring which may additionally contain a heteroatom, which comprises initially the process comprising converting an aminoalcohol of the general formula (III) to the an alkali metal salt using a base AM where M is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and A is hydride, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, and reacting the alkali metal salt with 4-halobenzonitrile.



12. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base AM ~~used~~ is sodium methoxide or sodium ethoxide.

13. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein methanol or ethanol is distilled out of the reaction mixture.

14. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, wherein the reaction of the alkali metal salt is ~~carried out~~ conducted in the presence of a solvent.

15. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein the ~~reaction of conversion of the aminoalcohol to~~ the alkali metal salt is ~~carried out~~ conducted at temperatures of from 100 to 140° C.

16. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein the amount of the alkali metal salt relative to the 4-halobenzonitrile is from 1.00 to 1.5 equivalents, ~~based on 4-halobenzonitrile~~.

17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at temperatures of from 60 to 110° C.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of Raney nickel or Raney cobalt.

19. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of ammonia.

20. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17, wherein R¹ is ethylene and R² and R³ are each methyl.